



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

TM02/0404

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
08/973,293	12/01/97	123	COSIMANO, E	2161 04/04/01
First Named Applicant	SCHWARTZ,	35 USC 154(b) term ext.	=	0 Days.

TITLE OF INVENTION SECURE POSTAGE PAYMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEES DUE	DATE DUE
2 S001.101/00	705-401.000	E50	UTILITY	NO	\$1240.00	07/05/01

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

**HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:**

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.

Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No. 08/973,293	Applicant(s) SCHWARTZ ET AL.
	Examiner Edward R. Cosimano	Art Unit 2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the amendment filed March 15, 2001.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 26-28, 31-81, 130, 131, 134-183, 192-205 & 208-210.
3.  The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are acceptable as formal drawings.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5.  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6.  Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7.  Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No. 10.
  - (b)  including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed 26 July 2000, which has been approved by the examiner.
  - (c)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8.  Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE / SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

#### Attachment(s)

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. <u>14</u> .	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other

Art Unit: 2161

1. Applicant should note the changes to patent practice and procedure effective December 01, 1997 as published in the Federal Register, Vol 62, No. 197, Friday October 10, 1997.

2. The specification and drawings have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification or drawings. Applicant should note the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.74, § 1.75, § 1.84(o,p(5)) & § 1.121(a)(1)-1.121(a)(6).

3. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

A) the prior art, for example, Taylor et al (4,812,994) which disclose the use of passwords entered by the user to determine whether or not an user may operate a postage meter to dispense postage or perform any other postage metering function.

B) however, in regard to claims 26 & 130, the prior art does not teach or suggest the use of mail content data, e.g. sender information, to determine whether or not an user may operate a postage meter to dispense postage or perform any other postage metering function. Claims 27, 28, 33-35, 131 & 134-138 are allowable for the same reason.

C) however, in regard to claims 36, 58, 139 & 161, the prior art does not teach or suggest the use of a postage indicia to cause to the postal carrier to provide a payment to another party. Claims 37-57, 59-81 & 140-160, 162-183, 201-204, 208 & 209 are allowable for the same reason.

D) however, in regard to claim 192, the prior art does not teach or suggest the use of a postage indicia to cause to the postal carrier to provide a message to another party. Claims 193-200, 205 & 210 are allowable for the same reason.

3.1 Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2161

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Cosimano whose telephone number is (703) 305-9783. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30am to 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell, can be reached on (703)-305-9768. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

4.1 The fax phone number for UNOFFICIAL FAXES or for OFFICIAL FAXES for this group is either (703) 308-9051 or (703) 308-9052.

03/30/01

*Edward Cosimano*  
Edward R. Cosimano  
Primary Examiner A.U. 2161



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER OF  
PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

In re Application of  
SCHWARTZ et al  
Serial No: 08/973,293  
Filed: 01 December 1997  
For: SECURE POSTAL PAYMENT SYSTEM  
AND METHOD

: DECISION ON PETITION UNDER  
: 37 CFR 1.97 FOR CONSIDERATION  
: OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
: STATEMENT AFTER FINAL  
: REJECTION

The petition under 37 CFR 1.97 (d)(2) filed 04 December 2000 for consideration of an information disclosure statement after final rejection has been:

[ X ] GRANTED.

The information disclosure statement will be considered by the Examiner.

[ ] DENIED.

The petition lacks:

[ ] The required fee under 37 CFR 1.97 (d)(3) and 1.17(i).

[ ] A proper certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(d)(1) and 1.97 (e).

The information disclosure statement has been placed of record in the files but will not be considered by the Examiner.

*for James Trammel, Vincent Millin*

James P. Trammel, SPE  
Art Unit 2161

VINCENT MILLIN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100